

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Jerry Kent, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. Warren Norris and Kevin Spilman were absent. Commissioners Bruce Levi and Ken Masters also attended the meeting.

Chairman, Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting held July 11th were approved as written on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Charles Smith. Actions taken at the August 7th meeting had to be repealed due to the nature of the special meeting. Jerry Kent moved to rescind the motion to remove the secretary salary from the 2014 budget. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was offered by Charles Smith with Janet Kile seconding the motion. Motion carried.

AREA PLAN

David Rogier interim director addressed the council sharing that it was taking 12 to 14 hours a day during the period that he was operating the office on his own. Rogier feels that there is definitely a need for two people in that office. The council was then introduced to Kevin Tolloty the newly appointed director. Mr. Tolloty shared his resume and plans that he anticipated. He then asked permission to hire a full time employee in his office. After much discussion, Marvin Hedrick made a motion to allow Mr. Tolloty to hire a part time position for the remainder of the year. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Brad Smith hospital administrator reported that hospitals in the region fund county inmate medical expenses from 0 to 100% with an average of hospitals paying 50%. Smith offered an addendum to the county's contract to allow a 50% discount as of January 1st, 2014. The financial report for RMH ambulance service for the first quarter of 2013 was distributed. Mr. Smith projected a \$250,000 credit at the end of 2013. Kip Burkett thanked the council for his appointment to the board of a great and growing hospital.

SURVEYOR

Surveyor Marvin Rees reported that the bank loan for the James Cassidy drain has been paid in full and a \$20,000 principal payment on the William T. Moore drain has also been paid.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

An additional appropriation for the Auditor Ineligible Deductions fund was requested by Auditor Beard in the amount of \$12,801.27. Jerry Kent made the motion to approve with Charles Smith seconding the motion. Motion carried.

The Sheriff requested that \$5,000 be appropriated in the Firearms Training fund. A motion for approval was made by Marvin Hedrick. Janet Kile seconded the motion and the motion carried.

TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES ORDINANCE

The council and the EDC worked together to draft an ordinance establishing the guidelines for awarding tax abatements. Upon presentation there were questions regarding terms within the document. It was agreed to table action until the next meeting.

SHERIFF/JAIL INSPECTION

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood reported 34 inmates currently in the Rush County Jail. Fuel bids for the Sheriff have been advertised for August 26th.

State Jail Inspector, Ken Whipker addressed the council with issues found in the annual jail inspection which include: indoor/outdoor recreation; medical provider; mental health provider; segregated area for health issues; staffing and jail needs assessment. Eric Ratts an engineer with DLZ explained that an addition could be considered for the jail but it wasn't recommended. Usually the cost of staffing and bringing a new building up to code exceeds the cost of a new building. An estimated cost of a 125 bed jail would be in the vicinity of ten million dollars.

Bill Wilson representing Jail-Services explained that Rush County has a linear jail and that design is staff intensive. Most jails today are built in a pod style which is efficient to staffing and technology.

Mr. Whipker stated that the county is working in the right direction in addressing the issue. Long term plans need to include new jail location, financing, and continuing operations.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Charles Smith. Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion, Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Kevin Spilman
Kevin Spilman

/s/ Jerry Kent
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor